

# Coping with the Loss of Our Child – A Comprehensive Guide for Families.

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# Coping with the Loss of a Child

## A Comprehensive Guide for Families

Pediatric Loss Committee  
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

### *Pediatric Loss Committee*

- Established to meet the needs of families who are coping with the loss of a child
- Distributed a folder containing a compilation of brochures on grief and loss
- Resulted in a plethora of information that was often overwhelming to families
- Challenged to develop a single, comprehensive resource guide that is “user-friendly”



### *Coping with the Loss of Your Child*

- Written information assists family in the time immediately following the death including:
  - Arranging your child’s funeral
  - FAQ’s about children, death and funerals
  - Children’s FAQ’s about death and funerals
- DVD contains additional information essential to processing the loss of a child:
  - Personal stories of coping and loss from bereaved families and staff
  - What is grief?
  - Living with the loss of your child
  - Step-parent and grandparent grief
  - Services beyond the hospital

### *Lessons Learned*

- Recognize that families in crisis are often unable to process much of the information given to them
- Involve bereaved families in the development of a comprehensive grief resource guide



### *Future Steps*

- Translate resource guide and DVD into Spanish
- Create additional resource guides:
  - Staff education to assist a child’s family during the final stages of life
  - “Helping Children Cope with the Loss of a Loved One”



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